

**Maryland Historical Trust
Determination of Eligibility Form**

Property Name: Physicians Memorial Hospital Inventory Number: CH-806
Address: 6 Garrett Avenue Historic District: Yes ☒ No
City: La Plata Zip Code: _____ County: Charles
USGS Quadrangle(s): _____
Property Owner: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: _____
Project: 2011 Bond Bill Agency: BPW
Agency Prepared By: _____
Preparer's Name: _____ Date Prepared: _____
Documentation Is Presented In: _____
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility Recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: Yes Listed: Yes
Site Visit by MHT Staff: Yes No Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)

Pursuant to a 2011 "Bond Bill," this property was considered by the Maryland Historical Trust Easement Committee and found ineligible for listing in the National Register.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: Eligibility Not Recommended: ☒
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Jonathan S. [Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

8/30/11
Date

8/30/11
Date

CH-806

1938

Physicians Memorial Hospital

Ironsides

Private

Erected in 1938, Physicians Memorial Hospital is important as one of the most elaborate expressions of Colonial Revival architecture in Charles County. The former hospital is located in the county seat of La Plata and is a 2-part, two-story Colonial Revival brick building standing at the top of a knoll on the south side of Garrett Avenue. The building consists of two side-gable structures with wall dormers connected by a brick breezeway. The largest of the two wings lies to the south and is characterized by a large three-bay two-story cross gable pediment accentuated with four reeded pilasters. Decorative features include keystone lintels, a centered lunette window, and quoins accentuating the corners. The north wing entrance is pedimented at the first floor under a compass window on the second story.

Physicians Memorial Hospital was Charles County's first formal medical facility. The need for a hospital became apparent after a tornado touched down in La Plata on November 26, 1926. As a result, fifteen people were killed and forty were injured. Unprepared for such a natural disaster, ambulances and military medical teams were dispatched from Washington and Indian Head. Many of the dead and injured were transported to medical facilities in the district of Columbia by private automobiles.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-806

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Physicians Memorial Hospital
other

2. Location

street and number Charles and Garrett Street not for publication
city, town La Plata vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name County Commissioners of Charles County MD
street and number PO Box 2150 telephone 301-396-5815
city, town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 113 p. 259
city, town LA Plata liber 67 folio 527

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
			Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Total
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-806

Condition

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Erected in 1938, Physicians Memorial Hospital, in the county seat of La Plata is a 2-part, two-story Colonial Revival brick building standing at the top of a knoll on the south side of Garrett Avenue facing east. Two side-gable structures with wall dormers are connected by a brick breezeway. The largest of the two wings lies to the south and is characterized by a large three-bay two-story cross gable pediment accentuated with four reeded pilasters. First floor windows and the centered entrance door have keystone lintels. The pediment includes a centered lunette window. The gable ends have false chimneys and quoins adorn each corner.

The smaller wing is less ornate and may have been constructed as addition circa 1940. This wing includes including five bays. The centered entrance is pedimented at the first floor under a compass window on the second story.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-806

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1938; 1942

Architect/Builder Albert L. Elder/ Wright Wills

Construction dates 1938; 1942

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Erected in 1938, Physicians Memorial Hospital is important as one of the most elaborate expressions of Colonial Revival architecture in Charles County. La Plata developed as the county's most successful railroad town in the last quarter of the 20th century and continued to thrive as the seat of county government. The town was established in 1873 when the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad erected a station and warehouse on the Chapman family farm known as "La Plata." A post office was established at La Plata in November 1873. The town grew quickly, and by 1876, was one of the main stations in Charles County. The approximately one square mile of land on which the town was laid out was donated by the Chapman's. Soon after its incorporation in 1888, La Plata initiated a campaign to relocate the county seat from Port Tobacco. By the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the rise of railroad transportation and the increasing difficulty of navigation in the upper portion of the Port Tobacco River had effected the vitality of Port Tobacco as a town. As early as 1873, the suggestion was made that the courthouse be moved to La Plata. The ongoing conflict between Port Tobacco and La Plata split the county's political groups into two distinct factions. A special election, held in May 1892, determined that the majority of the county preferred that the county seat remain in Port Tobacco. However, a suspicious fire destroyed most of the existing courthouse in August 1892, and as a result, a second vote was held in 1895. La Plata was victorious, and the new courthouse was dedicated in 1896. At that time, La Plata supplanted Port Tobacco as both the civic and commercial center of Charles County.

As the town continued to grow, a number of important public buildings were constructed including the 1896 courthouse, 1897 jail and the 1928 La Plata High School representing the most impressive examples of public buildings in the County. The need for a hospital became apparent after the tornado of November 26, 1926 in which fifteen people were killed and forty were injured. Unprepared for such a natural disaster, ambulances and military medical teams were dispatched from Washington and Indian Head. Many of the dead and injured were transported to medical facilities in the district of Columbia by private automobiles. By this time the neighboring southern Maryland Counties had hospitals. In 1936, Senator Vernon Cooksey introduced a amendment to a new school construction bill that had earlier been introduced by Delegate Rudolf Carrico. If approved this amendment would partially fund the construction of a hospital facility. The legislature authorized the county to sell \$25,000 in bonds, if the community could provide \$10,000.

Mrs. Henrietta Roberts donated the property upon which the building stands and in 1938 construction began. Albert L. Elder and Wright Wills from Bel Alton were general contractors while L.L. Parlett Harry Wood and B.R. Winkler and Holmes Fowler handled the plumbing heating and electrical work. The hospital opened in 1939. In 1942, federal funding provided most of the 50,000 addition, presumably the north wing which increased the building to a 40-bed capacity. In 1946, the hospital included 14 functional beds, six of which were private rooms. Part of the building also provided housing for some of the nurses, aids and kitchen help.

By the late 1950's community leaders began to recognize the need for a larger modern faculty. In 1959 County Commissioners

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Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-806

Name Physicians Memorial Hospital

Continuation Sheet

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acquired six acres adjacent to the current site and later contracted Ellerbe and Company, hospital architects to construct the building which was completed and open to the public in 1963.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-806

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3.72

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name La Plata

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 113, Parcel 259.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 3/5/2004

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-806

Section 9 Page 1

Physicians Memorial Hospital
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

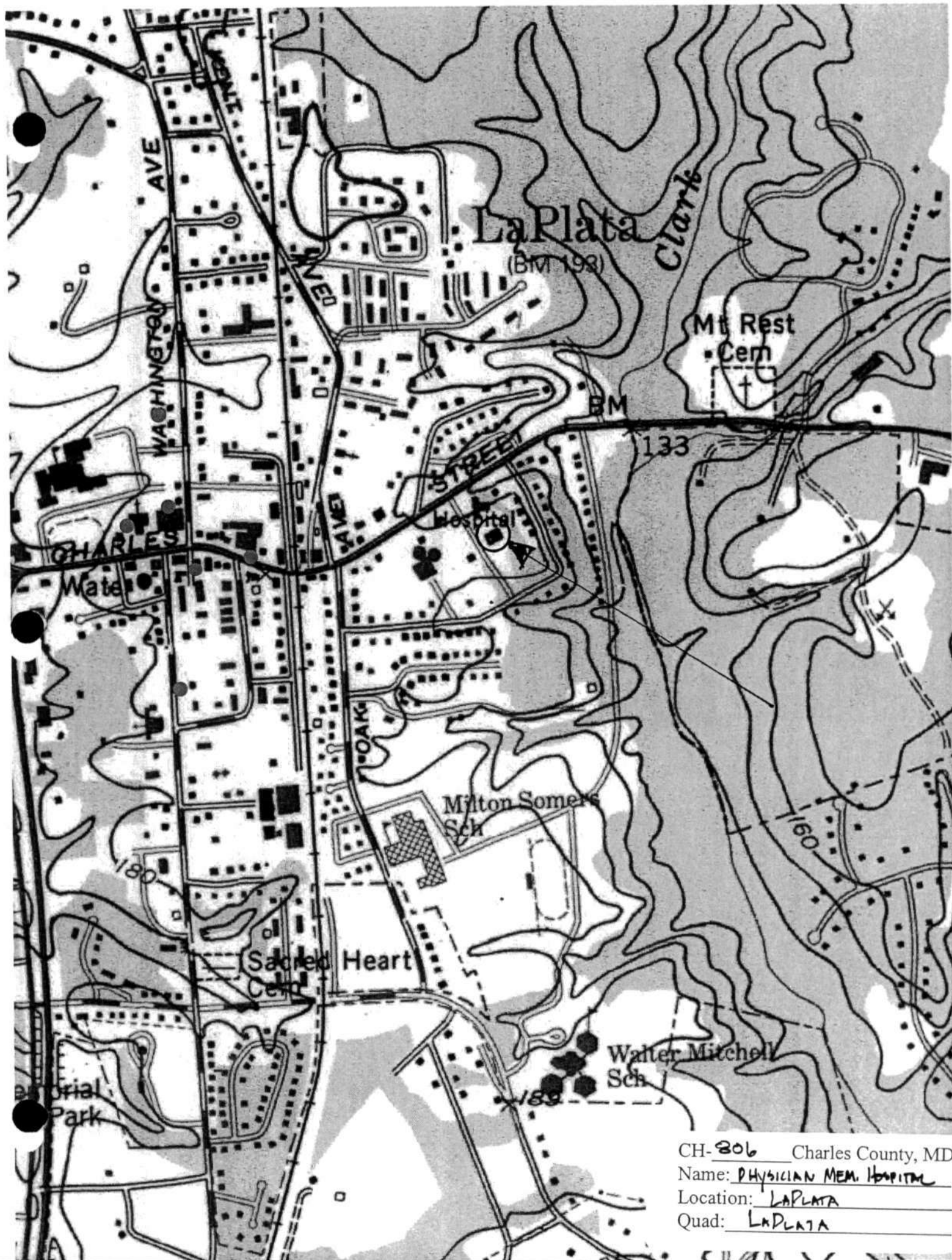
Hardy, Cathy Currey. "Phase III Final Report Charles County Historic Sites Survey."
Charles County Planning. July 2002.

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor
Transportation Study*. August 1996.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Lewis, J. Frank & Company. *The Maryland Directory*. 1880. Baltimore

Wearmouth, John M. *LaPlata, Maryland. 1888-1988. 100 Years The Heart of Charles County*.
Town of La Plata. 1988.



CH-306 Charles County, MD
Name: PHYSICIAN MEM. HOSPITAL
Location: LA PLATA
Quad: LA PLATA